

**MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORTS**  
**2014-2015**

**PAST PRESIDENT**

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the following slate of officers and Committee chairs for the year 2015 - 2016:

**Executive**

**New mandates for:**

Treasurer	Carolina Soulié
Recording Secretary	Sabra Ledent and Veronica Valentine

**Returning officers for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

President	Connie Ellis
Vice-President & CFUW Liaison	Suzanne Chaussé
Vice-President & Membership	Linda Sestock
Communications	Marianna Newkirk
Past President	Gilda Martinello

**Standing Committee Chairs**

**New mandates for:**

Fundraising	Mary Vlahos and Victoria Pinnell
Hospitality	vacant
Programme	Jane Edwards and Gilda Martinello
Scholarships	Jill Rollins

**Returning chairs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term:**

Archives	Jane Cowell-Poitras
Interest Groups	Linda Ricketts
Newsletter	Barbara Armbruster

**Returning for an additional year:**

Webmaster	Chitra Chopra
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## **Other committees**

### **Returning for an additional year:**

Newsletter distribution	Janet Guay
Photographer	Judy Paquin & Janet Ankcorn
Potluck Dinners	Gisele Lambert & Patricia DuVal

## **MLUWC Scholarship Fund**

### **Returning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term:**

Chair	Barbara Marcolin
Treasurer	Susan Keating

**Respectfully submitted,  
Gilda Martinello  
Past President & Chair, Nominating Committee**

## **PRESIDENT**

At the joint executive meeting (current and incoming members) held in May 2014, portfolios were officially transferred and planning began for the new year. Thereafter, executive meetings were held monthly beginning in August 2014. At these meetings, plans for upcoming events were refined and matters of interest or concern were discussed.

In June, I had the opportunity to represent the club at the Annual General Meeting of the CFUW which was held in Kitchener-Waterloo. There were presentations by the outgoing and incoming presidents of the CFUW as well as some very interesting workshops. Resolutions addressing a range of subjects, among them An Enhanced Canada Pension Plan and Preservation of Democracy: Increasing Voter Turnout, were presented, discussed and put to the vote. We also heard from some of the attendees of the successes to be achieved by working with other non-profit groups on specific projects. Most of these groups are run by women, so we left the conference with a new tag line 'THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER'.

The Programme and Fundraising Committees were very busy during the summer preparing for the new year. The programme was presented to the executive meeting in August and distributed to the membership starting at the Autumn Convivium in September. The major fundraising event, which took place in November, was a presentation by a local Operatic Society. This was very well received. The Scholarship fund has certainly benefited from the efforts of a very hard-working Fundraising Committee.

General Meetings were held monthly from September through December and February through April. There were speakers at the meetings held in October, November, February and March.

They addressed a range of issues all of which have been identified as being of concern to CFUW members and which are in the CFUW Policy Book. Once again, the Programme Committee is to be congratulated for obtaining an outstanding slate of speakers.

The proceeds of the raffle which was held at the December meeting - over \$1400 - were donated to the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped. At the April meeting - "Members' Night" - we had the opportunity to learn more about five of our newer members. Although the time allotted for their presentations was short they still managed to impress us with their achievements.

The Quebec Provincial Council of University Women meets twice a year. In October the meeting was hosted by the South Shore club and was held in St. Lambert. Several of our Executive members attended. MLUWC had the pleasure of hosting the Annual General Meeting in April. At both these meetings the clubs represented had the opportunity to report on activities which had taken place and discuss potential projects.

This, my first year as Club President, has been challenging at times but always interesting. My thanks go to the many members who have helped to make this another successful year for the club.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Constance Ellis  
President**

## **VP/CFUW LIAISON**

We had two resolutions to vote on this year.

Resolution No. 1

Saving Our Pollinators and Our Environment: Moratorium on the use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides.

With the assistance of Nancy Doray, we proposed amendments which were accepted by MLUWC.

Resolution No. 2

Reducing Climate Change Through the Use of Carbon Taxes.

MLUWC rejected this way of reducing Climate change.

Other points of interest:

- IFUW proposed name change;
- Federal election debates;

- Violence against women still front page news;
- Ending women's economic disparity;
- Supporting women's leadership and organizations.
- Public forum: Children and Hypersensualization; to abolish Nuclear Weapons.

I shall attend CFUW AGM in Quebec City in June and I shall report on my experience.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Chaussé  
Vice President & CFUW Liaison**

## **VP/MEMBERSHIP**

I can't believe another year is coming to an end. It has been a pleasure getting to know you, the members, and I am humbled and, at the same time, grateful to be part of this group of women. We should all be proud to know that there is such a wealth of experience and knowledge within our membership.

Our membership, as of April 1, 2015 stands at 207, including eleven life members and 1 dual member. A few members have left, for varying reasons and new members have discovered us.

Membership fees remain at \$110 for the 2014-15 year. A notice will be going out to the membership regarding our upcoming dues. You will have the option of paying your upcoming annual dues at our AGM. Cheques may be post-dated August 15, 2015.

Wishing all of you a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you and your friends in September.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Sestock  
Vice President & Membership Chair**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

In the past year, sympathy and get well cards were sent to a number of members of the club. This is a nice custom which can certainly provide comfort and support and is valued. It is possible that some were missed as the communications from club members, when they know of a member either in hospital or who has lost a family member, is not always transmitted to us.

In order to promote the club, the list of community advertising e-mail addresses has been updated, so that we can continue to advertise our meetings and be seen in the community section of the newspapers. We are also making sure that notices, as appropriate, are placed on the Club's

Facebook Page. In addition a bookmark has been created that will be distributed widely in an effort to attract new members.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Marianna Newkirk  
Communications**

## **TREASURER**

<b>Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club Interim Statement of Revenues-Expenses For the period of June 1, 2014 to April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015</b>	Year to Date
Opening Bank Balance - Trimester:	\$7,167.00
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Membership Dues Collected	\$21,420.00
Annual Meeting	
Convivium	\$2,440.00
Other Income	\$390.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$24,250.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
CFUW Fees Paid	\$14,558.00
Other Association Fees Paid	\$50.00
Annual Meeting	\$500.00
Convivium	\$1,979.25
<b>Administration</b>	
Admin	\$455.91
Honorarium	\$200.00

Membership	\$897.75
<b>Communications</b>	
Publicity	\$410.92
Website	\$285.19
Program	\$778.31
Hospitality	\$137.14
CFUW convention delegate <sup>1</sup>	\$1,086.98
Rent	\$1,126.94
Donations	\$0.00
Misc	\$240.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,706.39</b>
<b>Excess of revenues and expenses</b>	\$1,543.41
Investment	\$1,638.72
Bank balance as of April 21st 2015	\$7,869.28

**Respectfully submitted,  
Paulette Cargill  
Treasurer**

## **REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **ARCHIVES**

Thanks to Judy Cardwell, the archivist from 1995-2008, a system of keeping our annual records was set up and dutifully maintained from 2008 until 2014 by Renate Sutherland.

Over the past year, I have been learning about the MLUWC Archives and the documents we keep.

All of our archival records are stored at the Community Resource Centre in Valois. We maintain the following on-going records – “The President’s Binder” for the two-year term; Annual report (Newsletter Editor); Financial report (Treasurer); signed Minutes of the General and Executive meetings (Recording Secretary); Newsletters (Newsletter Editor); Programme (Programme Chair); 2 Membership Booklets (Membership Chair); Scholarship Fund Minutes and Financial report (Scholarship Fund Chair).

While most are still in paper format, more and more documents (e.g. photographs) are being maintained on CDs or USB keys. As long as these formats remain current, there should be no problem accessing these documents in the future. However, it would be prudent to keep in mind that as technology evolves, we may need to spend some money to "migrate" these documents to newer formats. Otherwise, the information contained therein might be permanently lost. For example, today’s computers can no longer read floppy discs that were prevalent just 10-15 years ago. It is, therefore, inevitable that CDs and USB keys will also, at some point, become out-dated.

I would like to thank Renate Sutherland and Chitra Chopra for giving me the benefit of their time and knowledge concerning the archives.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Cowell-Poitras**

### **FUNDRAISING**

On November 12, 2014 our major fundraising event took place at the D.D.O. Reception Hall. This year we were entertained by the Montreal West-End Operatic Society. Even though less tickets were sold than the previous year, we realized a higher profit (\$6500.00). This was owing to the publishing of a Program Book. This publication was another first for the Fundraising Committee and it proved to be very successful. It gave the opportunity to local merchants to advertise themselves and it also gave MLUWC more exposure in our Community.

Our next project was an “Antique & Unique Vintage Sale” taking place during Members’ night, April 13, 2015. The profit from this sale was \$562.00. In addition, \$441.00 was raised from book sales and 50/50 raffles at the monthly meetings throughout the year.

On April 30, 2015, we held the popular Games Day. We welcomed 84 ladies who had fun playing games and enjoying each other’s company while having lunch. The profit generated

from this activity is an unprecedented \$1990.00, just \$10.00 shy of \$2.000.00  
This brings the total amount raised throughout the year to \$9493.00, well over our goal of \$9.000.00 to finance the scholarships.

This amount does not include the donations received from numerous donors.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee who worked very hard to make all these events such a great success. These ladies are: Victoria Pinnell, Joyce Schaaf, Sally Gurekian and Jane Cowell-Poitras.

I would be remiss if I did not thank numerous members, who throughout the year, have helped by volunteering in different capacities.

Most of all, we thank everyone who supported our efforts to make this year a successful one.

Wishing you a nice and safe summer. See you all in the fall.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Vlahos**

## **HOSPITALITY**

### **2014 Convivium**

We continued the format of 2013 holding it at the Karnak in September. It was a light supper of sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dessert. There was a cash bar. Attendance was about 115 members.

### **2014 Christmas Party**

This event was held at Summerlea United Church in Lachine. Sweets and savoury foods accompanied with a cold punch were served.

### **2014/2015 Monthly Meetings**

Five monthly meetings were held at the Karnak with coffee, tea and cookies served.

### **2015 AGM Meeting**

The AGM dinner will again be held at the Golf St-Raphaël on May 11, 2015. There will be a cash bar plus a 3 course meal.

I wish to thank my team and all others who helped out with the convivium and meetings.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Wick**



## **NEWSLETTER**

Nine newsletters are published monthly from September to May. Each newsletter is distributed to the membership via email. A few members continue to receive a printed copy either by regular mail or by hand delivery by a couple of our members of the Executive. This year we removed the fee previously required for receipt of a printed copy. Every month a copy of the newsletter is emailed to our Webmaster who makes it available to all on our website.

Four members opted to pay for business card advertising in the newsletter. This netted the Club \$360. During the course of the year, we permit members to submit short notices regarding community events in which they are involved. We do not charge a fee for these announcements.

Also, during the course of the year, the newsletter chair is asked to send out email reminders or other notices to the membership. The master email list is rigorously kept up to date with the help of the Membership Chair.

I have truly enjoyed producing the newsletter this year. I wish to thank Janet Guay and Gilda Martinello for proofreading the newsletter with their eagle eyes.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Armbruster**

## **PROGRAMME**

The Programme Committee chose a wide variety of topics to inform and educate us for the line-up of 2014-2015 general meetings. The Committee was very pleased to have such interesting professional speakers who took time from their busy schedules to come and speak to us.

Our general meetings were held at the Karnak Shriners' Temple where we were again fortunate to have the very helpful assistance of Mr. William Pitts and Mr. Shawn Sedlezky for making the arrangements. This year, Mr. Pitts also provided us with his laptop for the PowerPoint presentations and a hand-held microphone both of which made organising the meetings that much easier.

The General Meeting schedule remained as it was last year with hospitality starting at 7:15 p.m., the business meeting at 7:45 p.m., and the speaker at 8:15 p.m. This year, I presented an Advocacy Minute prior to the introduction of each speaker where I spoke about existing CFUW policy relating to the topic of each speaker. This provided members with information for advocacy initiatives in these areas.

The Autumn Convivium Reception was wonderfully organised in September by Shirley Wick and her helpers and also took place at the Karnak Shriners' Temple (details under Hospitality).

## **Monthly meetings:**

### October – Community Night

This year our October meeting was organised as a Community Night. Eight community groups participated by bringing information about their organisation, what service each one provides for us and how we could participate. The community groups were: West Island Community Resource Centre, West Island Cancer Wellness Centre, West Island Palliative Care, West Island Women’s Shelter, NOVA, Women’s Healthy Heart Initiative, Alzheimer Group and the Project DOvEE.

Dr. Lucy Gilbert, the leader of the McGill University’s Project DOvEE also spoke to members about the early detection of “*Ovarian and Endometrial Cancer*” as being critical to improving outcome and that her research had revealed that the deadliest and most common type of ovarian cancer started not in the ovary but in the fallopian tubules.

### November

The internationally recognized authority, McGill University Professor, Shaheen Shariff, spoke to us about “*Sexting and Cyberbullying: Defining the Line for Digitally Empowered Kids*” a topic that has been at the top of public policy agendas for more than a decade. She spoke about the challenges of criminalizing children and youth, and the difficult task of navigating the tensions between free expression, privacy, protection and regulation.

### December

The “*Montreal City Voices of Harmony Inc.*” who sing in the *a cappella* style treated us to a range of seasonal and popular music. Their very exuberant and spirited performance put all the attendees in a very festive mood to enjoy all the “goodies” that members had generously brought. The evening’s raffle successfully raised \$1,435 for the benefit of the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped.

### January

Potluck Dinners

### February

Lynne McVey, CEO, Douglas Mental Health University Institute spoke about “*The Future of Mental Health: Prevention and Early Intervention with Youth*”. Surprisingly, 20% of youth in Canada between the ages of 11 and 25 suffer from some form of mental health problem and stigma prevents most of these young Canadians from receiving the help they need.

We also heard a heart-warming presentation by Sarah Burkart, a 2009 MLUWC scholarship recipient, and now community care worker in the mental health area.

### March

Julie Cobb, Warden at the Archambault Institution which houses roughly 750 inmates spoke about the Correctional Service of Canada, its legal mandate and mission. “*A Prison Warden tells her Story*” as a compelling and eye-opening overview of what a federal penitentiary in Canada

looks like – it is not like the movies! In fact, it is quite boring for the inmates. In addition, the shifting legal landscape surrounding incarceration attributable to the “tough-on-crime” government policies are leading to challenges and concerns in prisons and penitentiaries from staff as well as inmates.

Resolutions discussions and voting also took place in March in response to the earlier deadline for proposing CFUW resolution amendments.

#### April

On Members’ Night, five members described their lives, special interests and professional careers: Marianna Newkirk, Diane Gibb, Maria Korab-Laskowska, Jane Cowell-Poitras and Margaret Mitchell; a few members shared their interests and hobbies; and the Fundraising Committee held an “Antique and Unique” sale, a bake sale and a book sale all for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund (details under Fundraising).

This was a very busy and interesting meeting as we got to know our members a bit better.

#### May

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will again be held at Golf St Raphaël where Bill Brownstein of the Gazette will provide us with an entertaining view of the saga of trying to find an appropriate tribute to Mordecai Richler, and he will also speak about the changing face of newspapers.

Many thanks to the Committee members whose suggestions and contacts provided us with enjoyable and informative presentations by speakers and members alike and also wonderful entertainment: Anna Wilkins, Allison Kelly, Diane Gibb, Jane Edwards, Victoria Pinnell, Marianna Newkirk, and Sheila Parkins.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Chitra Chopra**

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Scholarship Committee this year consisted of Ginger Brossard, Jane Edwards, Franca Ferrara, Frances Lortie, Jane Quail and Theresa Sliz.

The Committee met in early fall to set our agenda for the year. At that time we also updated the posters and application form for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships, and planned our publicity procedures.

A highlight of the October monthly meeting was the attendance of the two Margaret Manson Scholarship recipients and the Amy Williams Scholarship recipient who each spoke to us about their studies and aspirations. All recipients were extremely appreciative of our support, and the club members in turn were most impressed by their passion and dedication in their respective fields of study.

We received a total of 21 applications for the Margaret Manson and Alberta Shearer Scholarships and, of these, six were selected for interview, three undergraduates and three graduates. At the time of writing this report, the interviews have yet to take place.

The support the club extends to adults returning to complete their high school studies is continuing, through giving bursaries to le Centre d'éducation des adultes Jeanne Sauvé and to the Place Cartier Adult Education Centre. Up to \$1500 is given annually to each of these centres. The applications from the students of both schools will be coming in at the end of April, when our committee will choose ten recipients from each school.

We have also been in touch with Roxanne Dupuis, the Financial Aid Officer from John Abbott College, about the Amy Williams Scholarship. Some members of our Scholarship Committee will join me to go to John Abbott College toward the end of May to interview the candidates and select the recipient.

The Committee has introduced a new bursary which will take effect next autumn. This bursary will be awarded to a student in a technical program at John Abbott College. By creating this new award, our scholarship program now covers all levels of post-secondary education on the West Island. Details of this bursary will be published in the September newsletter.

At this time, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the members of our Scholarship Committee for their time and dedication to this work. And a special thank you to Barbara Armbruster for acting as a mail depot for the scholarship applications.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Munro**

## **POT LUCK DINNERS**

The 23rd Annual Pot Luck Dinners were held January 12, 2015. Over 100 participants braved this year's especially frigid winter conditions to attend one lunch and twelve dinners. (One dinner had to be cancelled due to this year's nasty flu.) Events were held in Pincourt, Kirkland (3), Pointe-Claire (5), Beaconsfield, Baie d'Urfe (2), Beaufort, Dollard des Ormeaux and Dorval.

This is our annual opportunity to enjoy good food and wine and get to know club members in a personal setting. A big thank you to the Hostesses and Assistant Hostesses for all you did to make this event a success!

### **Hostesses**

Barb Marcolin  
Céline Dupuis,

### **Assistant Hostesses**

Jeanne Marie Lefebvre  
Louise Dagenais

Christine Hamilton  
Diane Nener  
Janet Guay  
Joan Pearson  
Kate Le Maistre  
Lorraine Retfalvi  
Maureen Rowe  
Patricia Murray  
Renate Sutherland  
Sandra Munro  
Suzanne Chaussé  
Tina Tessari

Nancy Doray  
Yolande Martin  
Dianne Robinson  
Denise McMurchie  
Joyce Schaaf  
Maria Korab-Laskowska  
Paulette Cargill  
Hille Viires  
Margaret Vost  
Jane Quail  
Donna Bourne  
Maria Roussakis

**Respectfully submitted,  
Gisèle Lambert and Patricia DuVal  
Potluck Dinner Coordinators**

### **MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (MCW/CFM)**

Founded in November 1893, the Montreal Council of Women, directly affiliated with the National Council of Women in Canada, is a non-partisan, non-confessional federation that brings together *70 voluntary organizations and 80 individual members from Montreal and surrounding region*. The **membership represents 30,000 women** who work together to achieve the objectives of the Council which are the improvement of social conditions, particularly for women and children. It prides itself on the ability to bring together people of different cultures and backgrounds to work together for the betterment of society in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

General Council meetings of the Montreal Council of Women are **held monthly on the second Thursday of every month at “Les Jardins du Canal”, 2700 Rufus Rockhead in Montreal**. These monthly MCW meetings, including a Luncheon (\$10.00), hosted by the Board and a designated federate, are held at 12:00 noon, followed by an afternoon program of interesting and inspiring guest speakers.

**At the Annual General Meeting in May 2014, our own Dr. Chitra Chopra, a former MLUWC President, was elected to the position of President of the Montreal Council of Women.**

#### ***THE YEAR’S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:***

***September 2014*** – The President, **Dr. Chitra Chopra, and the Board members** had organized a STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION which sought input from the Federates as MCW envisions its future directions and determines how the Montreal Council of Women can better respond to the needs and of the federates and the community at large. We also welcomed

representatives from the City of Montreal who spoke on the topic, ***“Promoting the Equal Involvement of Women and Men in the Montreal Community”***.

Our MLUWC President, Connie Ellis, and Fundraising Chair, Mary Vlahos, also attended this stimulating and informative Federates’ Day.

***October 2014 –Women’s History Month – Theresa Edwards***, Director, International Affairs and Human Rights of the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC), spoke to us about ***“Talking Rights: Aboriginal Women and the Right to Peace, Security and Freedom from Violence”***. She presented us with information and statistics about the many missing and murdered aboriginal women, and the work of the NWAC on empowering aboriginal women - how to promote safety, human rights awareness and implementation, advocate for quality education, economic security and prosperity for Aboriginal Peoples and their communities as a way to end violence.

***November 2014 -“Education- How Women Think”***, was an intriguing and amusing look into how women’s approaches to situations are unique. In an honest manner, **Suanne Stein**, Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, shared her experiences and challenges when she campaigned for re-election in the November provincial school board elections. Ms Stein was re-elected to the board, which she has led to its current standing as one of the top public school boards in Quebec.

**On November 21<sup>st</sup> the “WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD” LUNCHEON** was held at the **Omni Hotel** with over one hundred guests in attendance. MCW recognized not one, but TWO accomplished and driven Aboriginal leaders, who are relentless in their work, addressing the tough issues pertinent to the Aboriginal population, both locally and nationally. The recipients of this prestigious award were **Michèle Taina Audette**, President of the 38th Annual General Assembly of the Native Women's Association of Canada, and **Nakuset**, Executive Director of the Women's Shelter in Montreal. Both women are strong advocates for Aboriginal rights and have made an outstanding contribution to Aboriginal women’s causes. Both honourees arrived with an entourage of native family, friends and colleagues with much joy in their hearts and appreciation for the honour. Part of the opening of the event and presentation was an invocation by an elder.

***February 2015*** – Our **Black History Month** guest speaker was **Dr. Charmaine Nelson**, an Associate Professor of Art History at McGill University, and who is also the first Black professor to teach art history at a Canadian university. Dr. Nelson’s presentation entitled ***“François Malépart de Beaucourt’s ‘Portrait of a Haitian Woman’ (1786): Revolutionary Saint Domingue (now Haiti) and African Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Montreal”*** was a most informative and thought-provoking enlightenment.

*“Portrait of a Negro Slave”, painted at a time when Blacks were portrayed as exotic slaves, was renamed “Portrait of a Haitian Woman” in 2011 by its owner, the McCord Museum in Montreal. It is now on display at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.*

***March 2015*** – The ***“NCW Resolutions (am) and International Women’s Day (pm)”*** The day’s event included a Panel Discussion, moderated by the Honorable Eleni Bakopanos, Queen’s Privy

Council, with guests **Mme Manon Gauthier**, Member Executive Committee, Ville de Montreal, responsible for culture, heritage, design, space for life and status of women; **Mme Mair Verthuy, CM**, First Principal, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Women's Studies; The Honourable Marlene Jennings, P.C., former Member of Parliament, Liberal Party of Canada, House of Commons. All addressed the *UN theme, "Make it Happen"* urging women to advocate for women in leadership positions so that women can take an active part in the decision-making processes of public policy. The importance of voting and personal letter writing to all elected officials was also emphasized.

***April 2015*** – **Daniela Chivu**, former MCW Board member, who attended the **59th UN Commission on the Status of Women** in New York, spoke about the slow progress made to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women over the last 20 years since the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action was initiated. The post-2015 agenda must again pursue these goals more vigorously, especially the concern of violence vs. women, and include a gender perspective in all future sustainable development goals.

***May 2015*** - The **MCW Annual General Meeting** will be held on May 14, 2015 with guest speaker **Dr. Clarence Epstein**, Professor at Concordia University. His presentation is entitled ***"The Diniacopoulos Collection of Antiquities"***.

***From May 21-24, 2015 The National Council of Women of Canada will hold their AGM in Montreal***, which includes a Cocktail Reception at Montreal City Hall. MCW federates are encouraged to attend the AGM.

The Montreal Council of Women publishes **a monthly BULLETIN** and its website: [www.mcw-cfm.org](http://www.mcw-cfm.org) provides an important role as a voice for women in Montreal and surrounding areas.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Renate Sutherland and Frances Lortie**  
**MCW Representatives**

## **MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE**

As I complete my first term as chairman of the Scholarship Fund Committee, I am pleased to report that we are in excellent financial shape. We are continuing to invest our money with Scott Wilcox at CIBC Wood-Gundy and continue to enjoy conservative and steady growth. This would not be possible without the hard work of a number of individuals. I would like to thank Susan Keating, our treasurer, who has skilfully managed our financial reports, and to Helena Scheffer for the concise and accurate minutes, and for the thank-you letters to our donors. Helen Findlay has been an excellent resource person for both Susan and myself, as has our past chair, Kate Le Maistre. I would especially like to thank Sandra Munro who is completing her two-year term as chair of the Scholarship committee. Her conscientiousness and contributions to the committee have been invaluable and we shall miss her dearly. We look forward to working with her successor. I would also like to thank Mary Vlahos and her fund-raising committee for their

innovative and attractive ways of generating funds. The success of their efforts is obvious when one looks at the financial statements. And finally, a big thank-you goes to our members and donors. You are the reason that we are able to fulfill our mandate of supporting worthy women in their academic pursuits.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Marcolin**



## **REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUPS**

This year our membership has been very involved in various interest activities, with a total of 31 groups. Thank you to those who have accepted a leadership role in coordinating these group activities, particularly those who have taken over the role for the first time. Without the volunteerism of our members, we would not have such diverse and dynamic interest groups.

**Linda Ricketts**  
**Interest Group Chair**

### **ART APPRECIATION**

Traditionally the popular events have been the big exhibitions at The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts but this did not seem to be the case this year. As most of our group have the VIP membership, I suspect they are going at a time that suits their own schedule.

We had a fascinating and well-attended visit to the church of St-Leon de Westmount where we learned about the frescoes, the stained glass windows and the carvings.

Following requests for events nearer to home, we promoted Stewart Hall's intimate monthly series of talks, Demystifying Art, as well as the excellent Cineplex "In the Gallery" films on artists and exhibits from around the world.

**Jeannie Hazel**

### **BON APPÉTIT DINING**

This interest group of forty-four ladies had a delightful year of dining out. On the fourth Thursday of every month, with the exception of December, nine different restaurants in and around Montreal were selected at the onset of the season by the group, and visited over the course of the year. Participation ranged anywhere from 10-24 participants an evening.

A \$3.00 contribution from each member was collected upon registration and the proceeds were put towards our Christmas raffle gift basket.

The two remaining restaurants to visit for this year are: Ristorante Andrea (May 28<sup>th</sup>) and Restaurant Villa d'Este (June 25<sup>th</sup>).

Any member who would like to join this vibrant group and experience new dining experiences is most welcome.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the "Bon Appétit" clan who did an exceptional job of organizing our monthly dinners.

**Victoria Pinnell**

## **BOOK DISCUSSION I**

We have enjoyed our monthly afternoon meetings, reviewing the nine books we carefully selected last June. The topics varied from "Salt" by Mark Kurlansky, to two contrasts, in "The Orenda" by Joseph Boyden, to " Conversations with a Dead Man, The Legacy of Duncan Campbell Scott " by Mark Abley. We were fortunate to have Mark come to speak to us about his book, and he led a very interesting discussion surrounding his research, and the history of the Indian residential school project, and the cultural damage that this experiment has caused. With "The Orenda" we were treated to a YouTube interview with the author. We have read three historical novels, a history of Montreal, a biography of Norman Bethune, by Adrienne Clarkson, and are finishing with " The War that Ended Peace" by Margaret Macmillan.

We currently have fifteen members in the book club. At our pot luck luncheon in June, we will finalize our selections for next year.

My thanks to all who have made this year such fun.

**Margaret Nicoll- Griffith**

## **BOOK DISCUSSION II**

This year our book club lost a member who moved away but welcomed a new one into our midst; we are currently 12 members. We have read a variety of books: two of which dealt with World War I (*The War That Ended Peace* and *All Quiet on the Western Front*), two that dealt with 20<sup>th</sup> century China (*Wild Swans* and *Empress Dowager Cixi*), two biographies, one on the father of Alexandre Dumas (*The Black Count*) and the other on Marie-Antoinette's hairdresser (*Marie Antoinette's Head*), one dealing with what might have happened had Great Britain signed a peace treaty with Hitler's Germany (*Dominion*), another book dealt with how a little girl brought love back into a lonely man's life (*The Storied Life of AJ Fikry*). The last book of the year will be *The Invention of Wings* which is based on the real-life story of one of the US's first female abolitionist. Although we were not all in agreement as to the merits of these books, we always had very interesting and lively discussions. Thanks to the reviewers and hostesses and to all our readers for a very remarkable literary year.

**Gilda Martinello**

## **BRIDGE - MORNING**

We started out the fall season well and had some good lessons and bridge play at Doris Leckie's home. However, since Christmas, we have not been able to get together due to people going south for the winter months, as well as health problems among our members. Hopefully we can have a reunion when everyone returns.

**Janet Ankcorn and Doris Leckie**

## **BRIDGE -AFTERNOON**

The afternoon bridge group met every second Wednesday afternoon, in each other's homes. There are eight members in the group and three subs. We enjoyed some good bridge as well as lovely refreshments provided by the group.

**Eleanor Shaver**

## **BRIDGE AFTERNOON MIXED MARATHON**

The mixed marathon bridge group continues to play their requisite 6 games (7 couples) which is quite a feat, considering the postponements due to illness and travel. We have to finish our games before the end of May, when we have our wind up party, dinner and bridge and prize giving. We do love a party, so I am sure the games will be completed.

**Eileen Ross**

## **BRIDGE - DUPLICATE**

Duplicate Bridge meets at Centennial Hall twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 9:00 am. Currently we have 19 members and are always looking for more people to play, especially as spares. We thank the City of Beaconsfield for allowing us to use Centennial Hall for our games.

**Jane Quail & Ginger Brossard**

## **BRIDGE - INTERMEDIATE**

The Intermediate bridge group has a two table bridge. We meet generally every second Wednesday evening in members' homes.

Starting in late September and finishing in April or May, each member hosts twice. The members are Eibhlin McHale, Shirley Wick, Barbara Armbruster, Dianna Nevins, Lillian Brown, Marilyn Gollan, Ginger Brossard, Marilyn Flaherty, and Isabel Wright. Substitute members are Ina Lessard and Suzanne Dutoy-Dachy.

**Shirley Wick & Eibhlin McHale**

## **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**

The cross-country ski group made it out for a few outings this winter, but the extremely cold weather was frustrating. There's always next year! Please plan on joining our group of a half-dozen or so ski enthusiasts on the trails next winter.

**Janet Anderson**

## **EVENING BOOK CLUB**

The evening book club enjoyed another year of good books, good discussions and some good wine. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at a member's home and we have room for new members.

This year we read *Ru, Unless, The Light Between the Oceans, The Invention of Wings* and *A House in the Sky*. Our upcoming reads will be *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* and our last book of the year, *the Pearl that Broke its Shell*.

I believe that *A House in the Sky* was our most controversial and *The Light Between the Oceans* was well written but a tragic subject matter. Happy Reading.

**Linda Sestock**

## **FRENCH CONVERSATION**

Tête-à-tête a connu une excellente année, nous en sommes ravies. Nous nous réunissons le troisième vendredi de chaque mois, autour d'un thème que nous avons déterminé avec la bienveillante collaboration de l'hôtesse, lors de la rencontre précédente. Entre autres, nous avons abordé les voyages, les activités des participantes, leurs intérêts, comme le parfum, les lieux qu'elles fréquentent dans l'ouest-de-l'île quant au point de vue culturel, panoramique, gastronomique, etc. Nous pouvions toujours compter sur l'assistance de Gisèle Aubin pour peaufiner nos phrases.

**Dianne Robinson**

## **FILM CLUB**

The Film Club organized several showings throughout the year, as listed below. Unfortunately attendance at these events was very poor, the biggest audience of 12 people saw *Lawrence of Arabia*. This puts into question the level of interest of these events, and the types of films in which membership is interested. This would be something to investigate for next year.

September 2014: *Lawrence of Arabia, The battle for the Arab World, the Documentary*

October 2014: *Violence against women: BURNING TIMES* (My favourite)

November 2014: *Women in Science*

December 2014: No film

January 2015: *Religion and women: Me and the Mosque*

February 2015: *The World according to Monsanto*

March 2015: *The Disappearance of the Bees*

April 2015: We intend to show "Chihuly" outside

**Suzanne Chaussé**

## **GARDEN CLUB**

Our meetings take place mostly on the second Thursday of each month with a few exceptions, for example, an upcoming visit to greenhouses is scheduled for the afternoon. We meet at different members' houses to talk about gardens and various topics that come to mind, our discussions are lively. We have the opportunity to find plants that are less popular, something we can add to our plant vocabulary.

The idea behind belonging to this group is to benefit from the knowledge of others. In the winter, since we can't go out and get our hands dirty, we tackle garden design, learn to choose plants for shade garden or sunny garden, vegetables and herbs of special interest, that can also add ornamental value to a garden. Last month Marianna Newkirk, my very knowledgeable co-leader talked about starting seeds indoors. She gave us good guidance on how to have success with seedlings.

It's uplifting to talk of spring and summer gardens while coping with this hard, cold, snowy winter.

It gives us hope and enthusiasm to develop new ideas for the coming season.

**Liliana Perodeau**

## **GERMAN CONVERSATION**

We still have nine members that attend our German Conversation group, one having left to return to the U.S. and one new member having joined.

We review lighter events and attempt to change the world, in German, whenever possible. Then we get down to business and are presently on Chapter 14 of our German text book. We would welcome guests and new members, depending on their level of competency.

**Christine Hamilton**

## **GOURMET I**

The group holds a dinner each month from September to April. Each dinner has a hostess and two assistant chefs. The other members enjoy the meal and the conversation, and all members of the group share in the cost and receive copies of the recipes.

As always, the menus were imaginative and delicious, featuring seasonal foods as much as possible. Appetizers this year ranged from Zesty Crab Cakes, to Smoked Trout with Radicchio and Grapefruit, Parsnip Twigs, and Creamy Mushroom Tarts. Soups varied from Spinach Soup to Sweet Potato Bisque and Hot and Sour Soup. Salads included Kale and Peanut, Green Papaya

and a Tropical Slaw. Among the main dishes were Arctic Char, Roast Pork Loin with an Orange Crust, Ha Long Bay Mussels and a Spring Lamb Stew with Winter Vegetables. The side dishes included Potato and Celery Root Gratin and Polenta Cut-outs. Some of the desserts were Pumpkin Pecan Crunch Pie, Strawberry Parfait with Cheesecake Cream and Lime Curd, Flemish Chocolate Tart and Cranberry White Chocolate Mousse. And to accompany all this, we enjoyed a variety of wines and cocktails.

### **Patricia DuVal**

#### **GOURMET II**

We have nine members and meet 8 times a year. We meet at members' homes, with 4 cooks providing interesting and varied menus. At Christmas and March meetings, husbands are invited along for a restaurant outing.

### **Sydney Ball**

#### **GOURMET III**

We lost several members this year due to health concerns and relocations, but we welcomed four new members into our group. Despite a slow start in the fall, we have had very enjoyable dinner evenings – the hostesses provided us with delicious food and great recipes. In addition to the food and wine, we enjoyed each other's company and made new friends. By the end of May, we will have met for a total of 5 dinners.

### **Gilda Martinello**

#### **GOURMET IV**

We have ten members in our group and we have eight dinners from October to June in each other's homes, with spouses joining us in December and June. So far this year we have enjoyed main courses that have included: Red Wine and Juniper Braised Lamb Shanks, Pork Tenderloin Stuffed with Pears & Hazelnuts, Beef Bourguignon, Rolled Veal Scaloppini with Prosciutto, and Hare with Mustard & Flageolets. We cook in groups of four, and are currently at our maximum capacity.

### **Valerie Fortin**

#### **INVESTORS CLUB**

This group met only once last fall, and due to various circumstances, new leadership and definition of focus may be needed going forward. Think about it over the summer and if anyone is interested in coordinating this group, please contact Linda Ricketts.

## **ISSUES AND ACTION**

This has been a busy year for the Issues and Action Group (I&A) group, beginning with a request from the Canadian Council for Refugees to sign a petition against cuts to the coverage of health care for refugee claimants. We were able to get the Canadian Federation of University Women, (CFUW) to sign this petition in record time.

We were asked by CFUW to look at and comment on two resolutions, one concerning a moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids and the second that urged the government to use national, comprehensive and predictable carbon taxes to moderate greenhouse gas emission. While we were able to research and suggest amendments to the first resolution which were adopted, our group was unable to do a thorough analysis of the second. This resulted in the first resolution being amended and passed but the second was not. **We need someone who is knowledgeable about environmental and food security issues!**

The anti-terrorism bill was examined and our comments were published in the April newsletter in the 'Did You Know' column.

The next big issue for us is, of course, the up-coming federal election. In conjunction with the CFUW, we will be promoting the 'Up for Debate Campaign', asking (demanding) that one of the five leaders' debates be devoted to women's issues.

Next year, we hope to expand our group so that we can advocate for even more issues, such as Justice and Security, Education, Poverty and Homelessness.

**Nancy Doray and Patricia DuVal**

## **JAUNTERS**

This past year we had wonderful organizers as usual. Everyone takes a turn helping in some way.

In September we had a guided tour at the Montreal Cemetery, in October, at the McCord Museum, we re-imagined Ben's legendary Deli and ate smoked meat.

November saw us lunching in style at Birk's Café and having a guided tour of the Anglican Cathedral across the street. December it was a matinee holiday concert at Bourgie Hall "Nativity in New France". Our Christmas raffle basket was the talk of the town; bravo Paulette. In January we braved the weather to visit the Pointe à Callière to see The Greeks exhibit. February was a view of the MMFA Unique Orientalism art theme. March 25<sup>th</sup> will be a special tour of McGill's Osler Library and Medical Museum. April 8<sup>th</sup> a tour and video of the Canadian Guild of Crafts, is planned.

Everyone is welcome to join us at any time and in the fall there will be more fascinating jaunts to places you might never go alone. Our enthusiastic and imaginative members have already scouted out venues for September and October outings. See you then!

**Pat Jones**

### **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

The 2014-15 morning Montreal Symphony Concerts were most enjoyable, including some memorable conductors. Dina Gilbert directed the November 6 concert very capably - a first in this series with a female conductor. Hopefully a sign that more women will consider this profession. Fortunately for us, Kent Nagano directed two of our concerts and most recently Juanjo Mena, a Spanish director, amazed us all with a vigorous dancelike style to his directing.

This year there were seventeen women participants in our group. Eight subscribed to the Morning Montreal Symphony Orchestra series of six concerts. Others bought tickets when they were available to attend. Over coffee and yummy treats, group members presented upcoming composers and their selections, enlightening us with biographical and musical information so we could appreciate more fully the following week's concert. Composers studied were Ravel, Pepin, Rodrigo, DeFalla, Mozart, Saint-Saens, Bach, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Nielsen, and Shostakovich. Following the concert, lunch was enjoyed at a nearby restaurant. Much appreciation to the meeting hostesses, bakers and presenters. And thanks to the drivers for getting us to the concerts. A good time was had by all!

**Maria Cranker**

### **MUSIC HISTORY**

The 16-member Music History group centred its 2014-15 program around that of the Studio de Musique Ancienne (SMAM) this year. This has allowed us to attend a magnificent series of concerts in various splendid venues offering different added delights to enhance our enjoyment of the music: Église Saint-Leon de Westmount (Nincheri frescoes), Maison Symphonique (perfect acoustics), Bourgie Hall (Tiffany windows) and the Chapelle du Grand Seminaire (ideal space for the Renaissance music of Orlando di Lasso). In our monthly preparation meetings we have had an opportunity to dip into the music of Renaissance composers Tomas Luis de Victoria and Orlando di Lasso, both contemporaries of Palestrina, and explore the riches of Bach, Handel and Mozart. In particular, with our Christmas in Leipzig concert we were able to enjoy one of the eight concerts in the new Bach Cantata series, the ambitious project launched this season to present all of Bach's sacred cantatas over a period of eight years. A special highlight of the year was the soaring Mozart Requiem given at the Maison Symphonique in November.

Unfortunately and unusually, two monthly meetings had to be cancelled -- one in January for bad weather (no surprise this winter) and a second in March due to personal circumstances. Many thanks to the various members who provided delicious refreshments at our monthly meetings.

**Joan Dyer**



## **NETWORKING**

In addition to providing networking opportunities for women (working, looking for work, volunteers, etc.) we were able to raise over \$460 for charity including \$335 for the scholarship fund and \$125 for the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre.

Our networking group is a great tool to help raise awareness about the Club and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies of the MLUWC who help support the group. We had several breakfast and evening events, but it seems that our most successful events were our evening 5 à 7's and of course, the evening topics also played an important part of our success.

Should you or someone you know be interested in attending our Networking Events, please let me know. Our last event of the year will most likely be in May.

**Linda Sestock**

## **NEW BOOK EXCHANGE**

This super group of readers meet once in the early fall at Clio's book store in the Pointe Claire Plaza. Each of the members chooses a recently published book to buy. The group is broken up into geographical areas to make it convenient for deliveries and then on the first of each month we exchange. Thus we get to read the newest books and often discover new authors.

Please consider joining us as we have no limit on our membership (32 this year).

**B.J. Bell**

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

The Photography Club has 8 active members, of the 14 who signed up.

We had one fall outing to Botanical Gardens and one meeting every month. During meetings I make presentations on various photography topics. Then we discuss members' assignments and various photos.

Planned are 2-3 spring outings and one more meeting.

This group can accommodate more members.

**Marie Korab Laskowska**

## **TRAVEL**

The Travel Group has 30 members. Meetings are held once a month in October, November, January, February and March. This year we had presentations from Ireland, South America,

Asia, Africa, and will meet once more on April 20<sup>th</sup> for “Pacific adventures from Australia and New Zealand”.

This group can accommodate more members.

### **Marie Korab Laskowska**

#### **TUTTO ITALIANO**

October: Watched a DVD presentation by historian Peter Acroyd on Venice – which provided an in-depth tour on the marvelous art and architecture, that was created in the city over centuries.

November: Watched the film biography of Maria Callas becoming the greatest soprano, her career and personal life.

December: Pot luck meeting celebrating Christmas, alongside watching “Love in Portofino” ..With Andrea Bocelli recital..a lot of famous and romantic songs...quizas..quizas...quizas ....

January: Presentation from the travels of one of our members to the area of Montepulciano and Tuscany.

February: Continuation of watching the series on Venice and magnificent music that was composed there, spiritual music of Vivaldi, opera music of Monteverdi and other artists who got inspiration in this unique and one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

March : Meeting was cancelled.

April: Peter Acroyd DVD again, finished watching his series on Venice and the theatre that inspired music and opera.

May: Outing of the group to welcome the spring in the spirit of friendship and coming summer and discuss the possible themes of interest for the new season of 2015.

### **Renata Bagga and Mary Vlahos**

#### **WINE APPRECIATION I**

Wine Tasting I continues to explore the world of wine, with some very creative work. Renata did her presentation of wines from volcanic sites around the world in a volcanic red dress! She has set the bar a little higher for the 12 of us and none of us misses a presentation unless away or deathly ill. And the food is amazing. We are all into pairings of food and wine and I have always considered us as a variety of a gourmet group.

### **Eileen Ross**

#### **WINE APPRECIATION II**

The group this year explored wines from various countries, including Canada. Each evening was hosted by a member who selected the wines and gave us wine information sheets and wine tasting score cards. The wine tasting was followed by the hostess providing us with delicious refreshments.

In March the group attended the SAQ Wine tasting at the Holiday Inn. The food and wine tasting was a fun adventure.

We are a group of eight members and one spare that fills in, if someone is absent. We enjoy the wine, the fellowship and the laughs.

**Joyce Schaaf**